supply of gas for the fertilizer plant of M/s Nagarjuna Fertilizer and Chemicals which is under construction at Kakinada. It has also been decided to commit gas in this region to two new power plants of 400 MW each and a small fertilizer plant. At present no natural gas is being produced from onshore basin. The production is expected to begin only by 1993-94.

Malaria in epidemic form in Khammam District of Andhra Pradesh

817. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that malaria is spreading in epidemic form in tribal areas of Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh and there are 1,20,000 cases already detected and 115 deaths have been reported:

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such high incidence of malaria and

(c) what effective steps Government propose to take to control the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) The Government is aware of an outbreak of malaria in Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh during the month of July, 1990 and a total number of 201 deaths have been reported due to Malaria and other causes against 2275 malaria positive cases reported during this period.

(b) The reasons for the out-break are as under:—

—Absence of spray operations as the area is less than 2 API (API no. of positive cases of malaria per thousand population per year)

—Lack of surveillance

—Improper and patchy surveillance activities.

—Absence of focal spray and investigation of detected malaria cases.

—The affected areas are in the immediate neighbourhood of high incidence persistant transmission PHCs.

(c) The following specific steps have been taken to control the disease:-

—Director, N.M.E.P. visited the State Headquarters and the affected district from 29th July to 1st August, 1990 to evaluate the situation, organise containment measures and to give technical guidance to contain the outbreak.

—Adequate quantities of insecticides and anti-malaria drugs have been supplied to the State Health Authorities.

—Intensive case detection through peripheral health workers, Mobile Medical Teams and Treatment through the Medical Officers is being undertaken. Pyrethrum Space Spray is being done. Fogging through vehicle mounted fogging machines has been done in the villages where vehicle can go.

—Health Education and publicity about the disease symptoms, where to get treatment and the benefits of insecticidal spray are being carried out.

Clearance for the operation of Air Taxies

818. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 15 enpreneures have sought clearance from